

Message Text

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42

ACTION HEW-08

INFO OCT-01 ARAE-00 ISO-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 INR-11

IO-14 MED-03 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 SCA-01 SCI-06

PRS-01 CIAE-00 AID-20 FDRE-00 DODE-00 DRC-01 /071 W

----- 098708

O 291745Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5327

USPHS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CDC ATLANTA, GA. IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 6569

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, BR

SUBJECT: MENINGITIS VACCINATION PROGRAM

THE EMBASSY TRANSMITS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE JUST RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO AND ENDORSES THE REQUESTED ACTION CONTAINED IN PARA 5 OF SAO PAULO'S 1929. THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION IS INVITED PARTICULARLY TO THE FACT THAT THESE VACCINES ARE TO LEAVE NEW YORK THIS EVENING, AUGUST 29 ON PAA 201. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING FORMED OF THE OUTCOME OF THE CONVERSATIONS WITH NATIONAL-MERRIL CO.

FOL TEL RECEIVED FROM SAO PAULO SENT ACTION IMMEDIATE TO BRASILIA 29 AUG 74 BEING RPTD FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAO PAULO 1929

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, BR

SUBJECT: MENINGITIS VACCINATION PROGRAM

1. AS EMBASSY AWARE, MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS OUTBREAKS UNTIL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APRIL 1974 WERE OF THE TYPE C GROUP AND CONFINED TO SAO PAULO.

SINCE APRIL 1974 AN EXPLOSIVE WAVE OF MENINGITIS HAS OCCURRED, SPREADING OUT OF SAO PAULO TO OTHER AREAS OF BRAZIL. OVER 1000 PERSONS HAVE DIED ALREADY IN SAO PAULO THIS YEAR OF THIS DISEASE AND PRESENT EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THE AUGUST ATTACK RATE MAY BE HIGHER THAN JULY. THIS NEW WAVE OF MENINGITIS IS DUE LARGELY TO THE ADVENT OF TYPE A MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS. (NOW 75 PERCENT A AND 25 PERCENT C). SINCE EARLY 1974 VACCINES HAVE BECOME AVAILABLE FOR COMBATING MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS. THE TYPE A VACCINE IS MADE IN LYON, FRANCE (MERIEUX LABORATORIES) AND TYPE C BY MERCK, SHARP AND DOHME IN THE U.S. NO COMBINED VACCINE (TYPE A AND TYPE C TOGETHER) EXISTS ON THE MARKET; HOWEVER, THE NATIONAL MERRIL COMPANY AT SWIFTWATER, PENNSYLVANIA HAS DEVELOPED A CAPABILITY OF PRODUCING A COMBINED VACCINE. SUCH A VACCINE, IF IT WERE MADE AVAILABLE, WOULD CUT COSTS AND TIME OF VACCINATION BY HALF. THE PROCEDURE IN THE VACCINATION PROGRAM WHICH HAS JUST GOTTEN UNDERWAY IN SAO PAULO REQUIRES TWO SEPARATE VACCINATIONS--ONE FOR TYPE A AND ONE FOR TYPE C.

2. DR. JOSEPH MC CORMICK OF THE USPHS' CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC), WHO HAS BEEN IN BRAZIL SINCE EARLY AUGUST AT THE INVITATION OF PAHO AND GOB AS A SPECIAL ADVISOR, MADE A COMMITMENT TWO WEEKS AGO TO DR. JOSE CARLOS SEIXAS OF THE BRAZILIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH ON BEHALF OF USPHS AND PAHO TO FURNISH TYPE A TYPE C COMBINED VACCINE FOR FIELD TESTING WITH CDC'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. THIS COMMITMENT WAS MADE ON BASIS OF AN EARLIER ARRANGEMENT REACHED BETWEEN CDC AND THE NATIONAL-MERRIL DRUG COMPANY. MERRILL AGREED TO MAKE 200 DOSES OF COMBINED VACCINE AVAILABLE FOR THIS FIELD TRAIL. HOWEVER, ON AUGUST 27 MERRIL UNEXPECTEDLY AND FOR REASONS WHICH ARE NOT CLEAR, REVERSED ITS DECISION AND DID NOT INCLUDE THE COMBINED VACCINE WITH OTHER SINGLE VACCINE VIALS WHICH IT WAS PREPARING TO SHIP TO BRAZIL ON THAT DATE.

3. IT IS DR. MC CORMICK'S STRONG OPINION THAT THE COMPANY'S FAILURE TO SUPPLY THE COMBINED VACCINE AFTER PREVIOUS COMMITMENT HAD BEEN MADE, ONCE THE BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES BECOME AWARE OF THIS DECISION, COULD PROVE EMBARRASSING FOR THE COMPANY, PAHO, AND USPHS--PARTICULARLY AT A TIME WHEN IT IS EVIDENT TO THE BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES THAT THE EPIDEMIC IS CONTINUING WITHOUT ANY SIGN OF ABATEMENT AND INDEED THE STATISTICAL EVIDENCE SUGGESTS ATTACK RATES ARE INCREASING AND THE DISEASE IS BECOMING MORE WIDESPREAD.

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4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CDC IN ATLANTA IS AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND ITS IMPLICATIONS AND THAT IT INTENDS TO CONSULT WITH MERRILL COMPANY OFFICIALS TODAY IN AN EFFORT TO GET COMPANY TO REINSERT IN THE SHIPMENT OF SEPARATE A AND C VACCINES SCHEDULED TO BE HAND CARRIED FROM NEW YORK TO RIO THIS EVENING (PANAM 201) THE COMBINED VACCINE WHICH EARLIER HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THE SHIPMENT.

5. REQUEST EMBASSY INFORM DEPARTMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENTS
IMMEDIATELY AND ASK DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH CDC, TO
ASCERTAIN REASONS FOR COMPANY'S DECISION AND TO MAKE CERTAIN
COMPANY IS AWARE OF POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS OF FAILURE TO MEET
COMMITMENT TO GOB HEALTH MINISTRY.

CHAPIN

UNQUOTE

CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

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